Behaviors and challenges for transgender people accessing reproductive health

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A systematic review of activist literature

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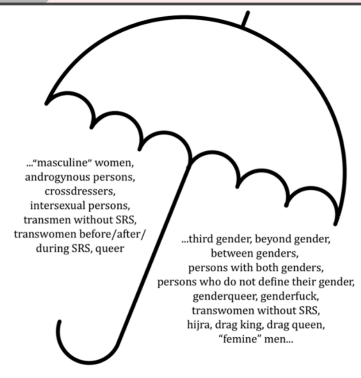
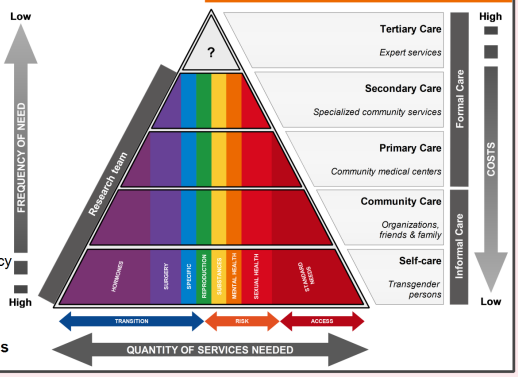
INTRODUCTION

- **Transgender population**
  - **Heterogeneous**
  - Growing in **visibility**
  - Growing in **numbers**
    - up to 4.5% of adults
    - up to 8.4% of children and adolescents
- **Facing**
  - **Violence** and **social marginalization**
  - **Discriminations** in health care
- **Largely excluded from**
  - **Health care organization**
  - **Policy-making**
  - **Research**
- **Placing them in a paradox**
  - Impact of **heteronormative binarity** on reproductive functions
  - **Distrust** in the medical system



HEALTH BURDEN & NEEDS

- Interactions with healthcare
  - Medical **transition**
  - **At risk of risk** status
  - **Basic** health needs
- **Risks mostly focus on**
  - Reproductive health
  - Substance abuse
  - Mental health
  - Sexual health
- **Reproductive health**
  - Bordering transition/risk
  - One of the least studied
  - No data on fertility/pregnancy
- **Absence of data**
  - **Incoherent policies**
  - **Human rights abuse**
  - **Heterogeneity of practices**



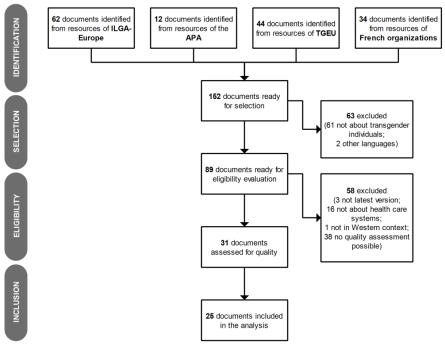
METHODS

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Population: reports from French local and European organizations
Europe: ILGA-Europe (and specific documents from the APA); Transgender Europe
France: Acceptess-T; Association Nationale Transgenre; Chrysalide; Clar-T; C'est Pas Mon Genre; Divergence; En-Trans; Espace Santé Trans'; Ouest Trans; OUTrans; Réseau de Santé Trans; RITA; T-Time; Trans 3.0; TRANS INTER action; Trans Posé.e.s

Inclusion criteria
- Written in French or English
- Latest versions of documents
- In Western context
- Focusing on health care systems
- Available for quality evaluation

Quality evaluation
- UN's Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports



THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Extraction of data-points
Multi-coding by 2 researchers, including a transgender expert by experience
Synthesis of codes into **THEMES**
Publication of the thematic synthesis

3,047 DATA POINTS | **62 CODES** | **16 THEMES**

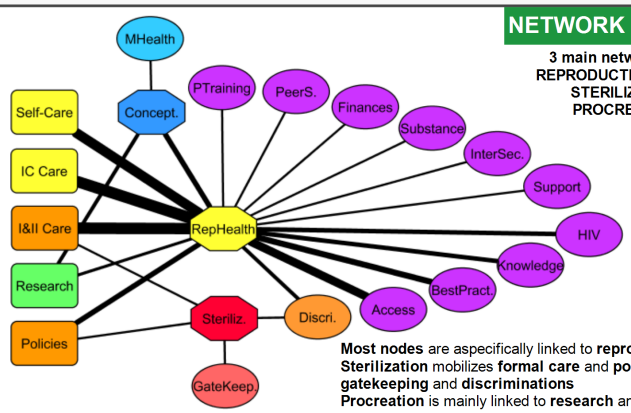
QUALITATIVE CODE EXTRACTION

Extractions of codes related to **STD PREVENTION** and **SEXUAL HEALTH**
Network analysis of **codes' co-occurrences**
Qualitative analysis of codes to produce new and more detailed **THEMES**

47 DATA POINTS | **15 CODES** | **4 THEMES**

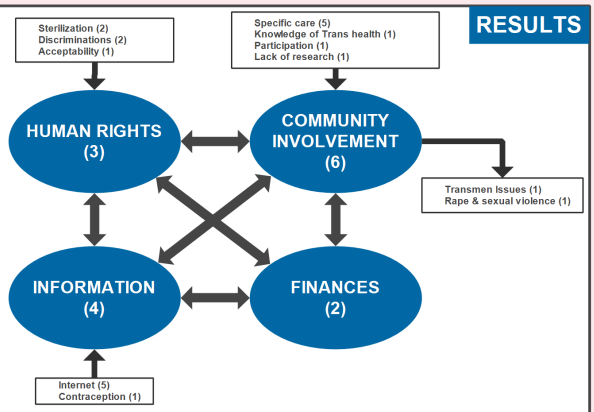
NETWORK ANALYSIS

3 main network hubs:
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
STERILIZATION
PROCREATION



Most nodes are aspecifically linked to **reproductive health**
Sterilization mobilizes **formal care** and **policies** through **gatekeeping** and **discriminations**
Procreation is mainly linked to **research** and **mental health**

RESULTS



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CONCLUSIONS

- **Transgender individuals face systemic barriers regarding reproductive rights**
- **Lack of data is the main result from this study and illustrates insufficient research and documentations of field practices and experimentations**
- **Knowledge and guidelines need to be constructed in close collaboration or under the supervision of transgender individuals and organizations**
- **Forced sterilizations should be understood as a collaborative action from both inhuman and discriminatory formal care systems and policies**
- **Reproductive health is mostly addressed through condom contraception as part of HIV prevention**
- **As a result, even less data is available to transgender individuals whose sexuality falls outside of heteronormative norms**
- **This is especially relevant for gay transmen who face uncertainty towards STD prevention, contraception, fertility and pregnancy**